

## **REMARKS**

Claim 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 6, 11 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 1-5, 21 and 22 are allowable.

In the office action, independent claims 6, 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph as a single means claim and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. Also, claims 7-10, 12-15 and 17-20 depend on claims 6, 11 and 16, respectively, are similarly rejected. The independent claims 6, 11 and 16 have been amended to overcome the rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Further, independent claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “802.17 Frame Structure and Bridging Ad-Hoc Support” by Marc Holness et al. (hereinafter referred to as Holness) in view of Christensen et al (US 5349583, hereinafter referred to as Christensen).

Claim 11 as amended recites that “a determining unit operable to determine, upon transmitting a MAC frame, whether a destination of the MAC frame is the other station node or a station located on outside of the ringlets and accommodated to one of the plurality of bridge nodes” and “a transmitting unit operable to transmit to the other station node an RPR MAC frame obtained by conversion of the MAC frame and having a destination MAC address indicating the other station node if the destination is the other station node, and operable to transmit to the one of the plurality of bridge nodes an RPR MAC frame into which the MAC frame is encapsulated in such a state that the one of the plurality of bridge nodes can capture the RPR MAC frame if the destination is the station so that the one of the plurality of bridge nodes

captures the RPR MAC frame to transmit to the other station the MAC frame in the RPR MAC frame”.

It is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of the cited references Holness and Christensen do not teach or suggest the forgoing feature of Claim 11, as amended.

Accordingly, independent claim 11 patentably distinguish over Holness in view of Christensen is allowable. Claims 12-15 that depend from the allowable claim 11 are allowable therewith.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number of listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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